

# LEC

I always thought this passage *left out* with a great deal of judgment, by Tucca and Varius, as it seems to contradict a part in the sixth Æneid. *Addison on Italy.*

To LEAVE. *v. n.*

1. To cease; to desist.

She is my effence, and I leave to be, If I be not by her fair influence

Foster'd, illumin'd, cherish'd, kept alive. *Shakespeare.*

And since this business so far fair is done, Let us not leave till all our own be won. *Shakespeare, H. IV.*

He began at the eldest, and left at the youngest. *Genes.*

2. To LEAVE off. To desist.

Gruttus, hoping that they in the castle would not hold out, left off to batter or undermine it, wherewith he perceived he little prevailed. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

But when you find that vigorous heat abate, Leave off, and for another summons wait. *Rescommon.*

3. To LEAVE off. To stop.

Wrongs do not leave off there where they begin, But still beget new mischiefs in their course. *Daniel.*

To LEAVE. *v. a.* [from *leave*, French.] To levy; to raise: a corrupt word, made, I believe, by *Spenser*, for a rhyme.

An army strong the leave'd, To war on those which him had of his realm bereav'd. *Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

LE'AVED. *adj.* [from *leave*, of *leaf*.]

1. Furnished with foliage.

2. Made with leaves or folds.

I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates. *Isa. xlv. 1.*

LEAVEN. *n. f.* [from *levain*, French; *leaven*, Latin.]

1. Ferment mixed with any body to make it light; particularly used of four dough mixed in a mass of bread.

It shall not be baken with leaven. *Lev. vi. 17.*

All fermented meats and drinks are casily digested, and those unfermented, by barm or leaven, are hardly digested. *Flyer.*

2. Any mixture which makes a general change in the mass.

Many of their propostions labour very strong of the old leaven of innovations. *King Charles.*

To LEAVEN. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To ferment by something mixed.

You must tarry the leav'ning. *Shakespeare, Tril. and Cressida.*

Whoever catch leavened bread, that soul shall be cut off. *Exod. xii. 17.*

2. To taint; to imbue.

That cruel something unpossest, Corrodes and leavens all the rest. *Prior.*

LE'AVEN. *n. f.* [from *leave*.] One who deserts or forsakes.

Let the world rank me in register A master-leaver, and a fugitive. *Shakespeare.*

LEAVES. *n. f.* The plural of leaf.

Parts fit for the nourishment of man in plants are, seeds, roots, and fruits; for leaves they give no nourishment at all.

LEAVINGS. *n. f.* [from *leave*.] Remnant; relics; offal: it has no singular.

My father has this morning call'd together, To this poor hall, his little Roman senate, The leavings of Pharfalla. *Addison's Cato.*

Or stop and light at Cloe's head, With scraps and leavings to be fed. *Swift.*

LEAVY. *adj.* [from *leaf*.] Full of leaves; covered with leaves.

Strephon, with leavy twigs of laurel tree, A garland made on temples for to wear, For he then chosen was the dignity Of village lord that Whitfontide to bear. *Sidney.*

Now, near enough: your leavy screens throw down, And show like those you are. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

To LECH. *v. a.* [from *lecher*, French.] To lick over. *Hammer.*

Haft thou yet leched the Athenian's eyes With the love juice. *Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream.*

LE'CHER. *n. f.* [Derived by *Skinner* from *luxuria*, old French: *luxuria* is used in the middle ages in the same sense.] A whore-matter.

I will now take the lecher; he's at my house; he cannot scape me. *Shakespeare, Merry Wives of Windsor.*

You, like a lecher, out of whorish loins Are pleas'd to breed out your inheritors. *Shakespeare.*

The lecher soon transforms his mistrels; now In his place appears a lovely cow. *Dryden.*

The lecher flutters his little eyes, About his churning chaps the frothy bubbles rise. *Dryden.*

To that fair lecher, the strong god of arms. *Pope's Odyssey.*

To LE'CHER. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To whore.

Die for adultery? no. The wren goes to't, and the small gilded fly does lecher in my sight. *Shakespeare, King Lear.*

Gut eats all day, and leches all the night. *B. Johnson.*

LE'CHEROUS. *adj.* [from *lecher*.] Leud; lustful.

The sapphire should grow foul, and lose its beauty, when worn by one that is lecherous; the emerald should fly to pieces, if it touch the skin of any unchaste person. *Darham.*

LE'CHEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *lecherous*.] Leudly; lustfully.

LE'CHEROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *lecherous*.] Leudness.

LE'CHERY. *n. f.* [from *lecher*.] Leudness; lust.

The rest welter with as little shame in open lechery, as swine do in the common mire. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

Against such leudsters, and their lechery, Those that betray them do no treachery. *Shakespeare.*

LE'CTION. *n. f.* [from *lectio*, Lat.] A reading; a variety in copies.

Every critic has his own hypothesis: if the common text be not favourable to his opinion, a various lection shall be made authentic. *Watts's Logic.*

LECTURE. *n. f.* [from *lectura*, French.]

1. A discourse pronounced upon any subject.

Mark him, while Dametas reads his rustick lecture unto him, how to feed his beasts before noon, and where to shade them in the extreme heat. *Sidney, b. ii.*

2. A discourse pronounced upon any subject.

When in music we have spent an hour, Your lecture shall have leisure for as much. *Shakespeare.*

When letters from Cesar were given to Ruficus, he refused to open them till the philosopher had done his lectures. *Taylor's Holy Living.*

3. A magisterial reprimand.

1. To instruct formally.

2. To instruct informally and dogmatically.

LECTURER. *n. f.* [from *lecture*.] An instructor; a teacher by way of lecture; a preacher in a church hired by the parish to instruct the rector or vicar.

If any minister refused to admit into his church a lecturer recommended by them, and there was not one orthodox or learned man recommended, he was presently required to attend upon the committee. *Clarendon.*

LECTURES. *n. f.* [from *lecture*.] The office of a lecturer.

He got a lectureship in town of sixty pounds a year, where he preached constantly in person. *Swift.*

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Him, haply slumbering on the Norway foam; The pilot of some small night-founder'd skiff, Deeming some island, oft, as seamen tell, With fix'd anchor in his scaly mind, Moors by his side under the lee, while night Invests the sea. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. i.*

Batter'd by his lee they lay, The passing winds through their torn canvass play. *Dryden.*

LEECH. *n. f.* [from *leech*, Saxon.]

1. A physician; a professor of the art of healing: whence we still use *cowleech*.

A leech, the which had great insight In that disease of griev'd conscience, And well could cure the fame; his name was patience. *Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Her words prevail'd, and then the learned leech His cunning hand 'gan to his wounds to lay, And all things else the which his art did teach. *Pu. Qu.*

Physick is their bane.

The learned leeches in despair depart, And shake their heads, depending of their art. *Dryden.*

With leeches will not vain receipts obtrude: Deaf to complaints they wait upon the ill; Till some safe crisis. *Dryden.*

The hoary wrinkled leech has watch'd and toil'd, Tried every health restoring herb and gum, And wearied out his painful skill in vain. *Roscoe's J. Shore.*

A skilful leech, They say, had wrought this blessed deed; This leech Arbuthnot was yelet. *Gay's Pastorals.*

2. A kind of small water serpent, which fastens on animals, and sucks the blood: it is used to draw blood where the lancet is less safe, whence perhaps the name.

I drew blood by leeches behind his ear. *Wise's Surge.*

Sticking like leeches, till they burst with blood, Without remorse insatiably. *Johnson.*

To LEECH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To treat with medicines.

LEECHCRAFT. *n. f.* [from *leech* and *craft*.] The art of healing: We study speech; but others we persuade: We leechcraft learn; but others cure with it. *Davies.*

LEECH. *adj.* [from *leech*, Dutch.] Kind; fond.

Whom all these were low and leech, And lov'd their flocks to feed; They never strove to be the chief, And simple was their weed. *Spenser's Pastorals.*

LEEK. *n. f.* [from *leek*, Dutch; *leek*, Ecce.]

Its flower consists of six pedals, and is shaped, as it were, like a bell; in the center arises the point, which afterward becomes a roundish fruit, divided into three cells, which contain roundish seeds: to these notes may be added, the flamina are generally broad and flat, ending in three capillaments, of which the middle one is furnished with a chive; the flowers are also gathered into stiff globular bunches: the roots are long, cylindrical; and coated, the coats ending in plain leaves. *Miller.*

Know'st thou Fluellin? — Yes.

— Tell him I'll knock his leek about his pate; Upon St. David's day. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*

Leek to the Welsh, to Dutchmen butter's dear. *Gay.*

We use acid plants inwardly and outwardly in gangrenes; in the scurvy, water-cresses, horse-radish, garlic, or leek pottage. *Flyer on Humours.*

LEER. *n. f.* [from *leer*, Saxon.]

1. An oblique view.

I spy entertainment in her; she gives the leer of invitation. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*

2. A lewd or lascivious look.

For envy, yet with jealous leer malign Ey'd them askance. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*

3. A lewd or lascivious look.

I place a statesman full before my sight; A bloated monster in all his gear, With shameless visage, and peridious leer. *Swift.*

To LEER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To look obliquely; to look archly.

I will leer upon him as he comes by; and do but mark the countenance that he will give me. *Shakespeare, Henry IV.*

2. To look with a forced countenance.

Betran has been taught the arts of courts, To gild a face with smiles, and leer a man to ruin. *Dryden.*

LEES. *n. f.* [from *leer*, French.] Dregs; sediment: it has seldom a singular.

This proceeded by reason of the old humour of those countries, where the memory of King Richard was so strong, that it lay like lees in the bottom of mens hearts; and if the vessel was but stirred, it would come up. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

3. A lewd or lascivious look.

Envy them not their palates with the wine. *B. Johnson.*

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